(b) if so, the number of domestic as well as foreign tourists who came to see the Taj Mahal in the night during the last two years;

(c) whether the income has increased during last two months by opening the Taj Mahal for night viewing; and

(d) if so, whether the number of tourists coming to see the Taj Mahal in the night can be increased and if so, by when it can be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOUDHURY): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be placed on the floor of the house.

Development of Buddhist Tourist Centres

†128. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Buddhist tourists visit India; and

(b) if so, the scheme formulated by Government to develop places related to Mahatma Buddha for tourism purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOUDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Identification of places relating to Mahatma Buddha and their development for tourism purposes is a continuous process. Their development is undertaken under various schemes of Infrastructure Development of the Ministry of Tourism as well as through various externally aided projects through international funding agencies.

Boost to domestic tourism

129. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to give a boost to the domestic tourism for the year 2005, by providing low budget accommodation and travelling facilities to new destinations of varied interests;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.